

Amendments submitted January 14, 2002  
Serial no. 09/424,028

24. (Twice Amended) An array of polynucleotides, comprising:

a closely packed planar array of microparticles, the closely packed planar array having [either] a number of microparticles per unit area in the planar array is at least eighty percent of the number of microparticles in a hexagonal array of equal area [or an average distance between centers of adjacent microparticles is less than two microparticle diameters]; and

a plurality of different polynucleotides attached to the microparticles, such that each different polynucleotide is attached to a different microparticle.